

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, and 12 are amended. Claim 2, 3, 7, and 8 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. The subject matter previously recited in claims 2 and 3 is incorporated into claims 1, 11, and 12, while the subject matter previously recited in claims 7 and 8 is incorporated into claim 6. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)**

In sections 4 and 5 on pages 2-8, the Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0018665 to Dovin et al. (hereinafter "Dovin"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites "when the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root objects and the displayed network object, inclusive, exceeds the maximum number of buttons displayable on the terminal, displaying a maximum number of buttons including the root button, the displayed network object button, and buttons corresponding to network objects progressively higher than the displayed network object within the hierarchy." Independent claims 6, 11,

and 12 contain similar recitations. Support for this subject matter can be found in, for example, paragraph [17] of the originally-filed specification.

This subject matter provides significant advantages to network operators employing a network management interface. Telecommunication networks can contain many layers with large numbers of network elements, making it difficult to navigate and keep track of what location in the network is currently displayed. The subject matter quoted above relates to clipping intermediate buttons that represent these network elements when there are too many intermediate buttons to be displayed on the breadcrumb bar.

On page 5, regarding previously-pending claim 3, the Office Action alleges that Dovin discloses this subject matter in paragraphs [0004], [0030], and [0038]. The Office Action applies an analogous line of reasoning to claim 8. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these assertions.

Dovin states in paragraph [0014] that the breadcrumbing engine generates "a breadcrumb for each web page downloaded to the web browser." Additionally, in paragraph [0030], Dovin the functionality of "removing a breadcrumb and all subsequent breadcrumbs from the breadcrumb navigation trail if a breadcrumb associated with the current page already appears in the trail." In other words, Dovin only eliminates breadcrumbs for webpages already visited. Dovin lacks any disclosure of eliminating intermediate breadcrumbs in the situation where there is no space in the navigation trail.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Dovin does not disclose, teach, or suggest "when the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root objects and the displayed network object, inclusive, exceeds the maximum number of buttons displayable on the terminal, displaying a maximum number of buttons including the root button, the displayed network object button, and buttons corresponding to network objects progressively higher than the displayed network object within the hierarchy," as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 6, 11, and 12.

Claim 4 depends from allowable claim 1, claim 9 depends from allowable claim 6, and claims 13 and 14 depend from allowable claim 12. Accordingly, claims 4, 9, 13, and 14 are also allowable over Dovin at least by virtue of their dependencies.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

In sections 6 and 7 on pages 9-12, the Office Action rejects claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dovin in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0132018 to Milic-Frayling et al. (hereinafter "Milic-Frayling"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 5 is allowable based at least on its dependence from claim 1 for the reasons stated above in connection with claim 1. Claim 10 is allowable based at least on its dependence from claim 6 for the reasons stated above in connection with claim 6. Milic-Frayling fails to overcome the deficiencies in Dovin described above.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims. Should a subsequent Office Action containing new rejections be issued, however, Applicant respectfully submits that such an Office Action should be Non-Final. In particular, in accordance with the rules set forth in MPEP § 706.07(a), a subsequent Office Action shall not be made final when it includes a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by Applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an IDS filed during the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). Here, because Applicant has merely incorporated subject matter from previously-pending dependent claims into independent claims and has not submitted an IDS in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), both conditions are satisfied.

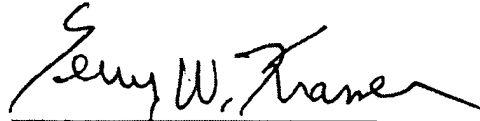
While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or

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suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", written over a horizontal line.

Terry W. Kramer  
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